AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for improving a statistical message classifier, comprising:

testing a message with a machine classifier, wherein the machine classifier is capable of making a classification ~~on~~ of the message; and

in the event ~~the message is classifiable by~~ the machine classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the classification made by the machine classifier, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages.

2.   (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the machine classifier is further capable of making no classification on the message.

3.   (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the machine classifier is a reliable classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

4.   (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a probability of erroneous classification by the machine classifier is less than a probability of erroneous classification by ~~at least as reliable as~~ the statistical message classifier.

5.   (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes a whitelist classifier.

6.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes a collaborative fingerprinting classifier.

7.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes an image analyzer.

8.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes a probe account.

9.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the machine classifier includes a challenge-response classifier.

10.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises updating a knowledge base used to train the statistical message classifier.

11.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises updating a statistical model used by the statistical message classifier.

12.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature.

13.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature and updating a counter corresponding to the feature.

14.	(Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature and updating a training set.

15.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature and computing a spam probability associated with the feature.

16.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein updating the statistical message classifier comprises parsing the message to obtain a feature and computing a score associated with the feature.

17.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the message is a previously stored message.

18.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the message is an incoming message.

19.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 1, in the event that the message is not classifiable by the classifier, further comprising testing the message with another machine classifier.

20.   (Currently amended) A method for improving a statistical message classifier comprising:

testing a message with a first classifier wherein the first classifier is capable of making a first classification;

in the event that the message is classifiable by the first classifier, updating the statistical message classifier according to the first classification;

in the event that ~~the message is not classifiable by~~ the first classifier does not make the classification, testing the message with a second classifier, wherein the second classifier is capable of making a second classification;

in the event that ~~the message is classifiable by~~ the second classifier makes the classification, updating the statistical message classifier according to the second classification, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages.

21.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 20, wherein the first classifier is a reliable classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

22.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 20, wherein the second classifier is a reliable classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

23.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 20, wherein the first classifier is a reliable good classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

24.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 20, wherein the first classifier is a reliable junk classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

25.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 20, wherein the second classifier is a reliable good classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

26.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 20, wherein the second classifier is a reliable junk classifier having a probability of erroneous classification of less than approximately one percent.

27.   (Currently amended) A The method for improving a message classifier as recited in Claim 20, wherein the first classifier is a user-augmented classifier.

28.   (Currently amended) A system for classifying a message, comprising:

a statistical message classifier configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprising a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages; and

a machine classifier coupled to the statistical message classifier, configured to test the message;

wherein the machine classifier is capable of making a reliable classification, and in the event the message is classifiable by the machine classifier makes the classification, the statistical message classifier is updated according to the reliable classification made by the machine classifier.

29.   (Currently amended) A system for improving a statistical message classifier, comprising:

a first classifier configured to test the message, capable of reliably making a first classification, and configured to update the statistical message classifier according to the first classification in the event that ~~the message is classifiable by~~ the first classifier <u>makes the classification, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages,</u> and

a second classifier coupled to the first classifier, capable of ~~reliable~~ reliably making a second classification, and configured to further test the message in the event that the message is not classifiable by the first classifier.

30.   (Currently amended) <u>A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a processor to perform a method</u> ~~A computer program product~~ for improving a statistical message classifier, the <u>method comprising:</u> ~~computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:~~

testing a message with a machine classifier, wherein the machine classifier is capable of making a reliable classification;

in the event ~~the message is classifiable by~~ the machine classifier<u>makes the classification,</u> updating the statistical message classifier according to the reliable classification made by the machine classifier,<u> wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages.</u>

31.   (Currently amended) <u>A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable to perform a method</u> ~~A computer program product~~ for improving a statistical message classifier, the <u>method comprising:</u> ~~computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:~~

testing a message with a first classifier wherein the first classifier is capable of reliably making a first classification;

in the event that the ~~message is classifiable by the~~ first classifier <u>makes the classification</u>, updating the statistical message classifier according to the first classification<u>, wherein the statistical message classifier is configured to detect an unsolicited message and comprises a knowledge base that tracks the spam probability of features in classified messages</u>;

in the event that ~~the message is not classifiable by~~ the first classifier <u>does not make the classification</u>, testing the message with a second classifier, wherein the second classifier is capable of reliably making a second classification;

in the event that ~~the message is classifiable by~~ the second classifier <u>makes the classification</u>, updating the statistical message classifier according to the second classification.